



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today the guilty plea of Larry S. Agnor, age 52, Chesapeake, Virginia to an indictment charging conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and possession of firearms by a methamphetamine user. The guilty plea came on the morning of trial. He is facing a minimum sentence of 10 years and a maximum possible sentence of life imprisonment when sentenced on January 10, 2006.

Agnor's guilty plea followed guilty pleas by co-defendants Lisa Marie Hastings and Robert J. Agnor. John Hennissey and Bryon E. Morris were charged in a related case and also entered guilty pleas. Agnor and the other defendants were involved in producing methamphetamine in at least three clandestine labs: two of which were located in the city of Chesapeake, Virginia, and one significant lab located on a piece of property that straddles the Virginia/North Carolina border.

The charges followed a two-year investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Special Investigations Section of the Chesapeake Police Department, and the Norfolk and Virginia Beach Police Departments. The cases stemmed from evidence recovered pursuant to six search warrants that were executed between September 2003 and October 2004 at various locations in Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Moyock, North Carolina.

On September 29, 2003, pursuant to a search warrant executed on property belonging to Larry S. Agnor, in Chesapeake, Virginia, agents discovered an active methamphetamine laboratory. At that location, Chesapeake Police, DEA, and ATF agents recovered, among other things, 66 firearms, 4,002 rounds of ammunition, and a fully functional laboratory capable of producing methamphetamine primarily using the red-phosphorus method. The DEA Clandestine Laboratory Entry Team (CLET) disassembled the laboratory and recovered, among other things, methamphetamine, red phosphorus, camp fuel, toluene, hydrogen peroxide, rock salt, muriatic acid, hydrogen gas generators, pure ephedrine, digital scales, packaging materials, and

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approximately 736 matchbooks, matchbook covers, and striker pads. As part of his guilty plea in

this case, he has agreed to the forfeiture of all 66 firearms and ammunition.

Another methamphetamine laboratory was located and dismantled on rural property extending from Moyock, North Carolina into Chesapeake, Virginia. Agents dismantled the laboratory and recovered paraphernalia associated with the production of methamphetamine including: large amounts of chemicals, precursors, cleaning materials, glassware, and storage vessels consistent with relatively high-quality production of methamphetamine using both the “red phosphorus” and “anhydrous ammonia” methods. At another location the DEA CLET and Norfolk police recovered muriatic acid, ephedrine tablets, toluene, 5 bottles of anhydrous ether, a cylinder of anhydrous ammonia, and lithium batteries. These chemicals constitute all of the ingredients necessary to produce methamphetamine using the anhydrous ammonia method. Both methods for the production of methamphetamine involve the use and combination of potentially explosive chemicals.

Sentencing of the co-defendants in this case and the defendants of the related case has been scheduled before the United States District Court in Norfolk as follows: Bryon E. Morris on October 3, 2005; John D. Hennessy on October 17, 2005; Lisa Marie Hastings on December 6, 2005; and Robert J. Agnor on January 6, 2006.

The production and distribution of methamphetamine appears to be a growing problem in the Tidewater area, which is borne out by numerous local arrests and the recent dismantling of several clandestine meth labs. The investigation and apprehension of persons responsible for the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine poses special risks for the law enforcement community due to the explosive nature of these laboratories.

Mr. McNulty stated: “Five years ago, methamphetamine was unheard of in this region. Now it is a real threat to our citizens and a danger to our communities. Meth labs are toxic, the chemicals are volatile and the sites are explosive. This conviction is one more step in our continuing effort to address this problem. Our goal is to stop the spread of meth before it becomes a major problem in Hampton Roads.”

Assistant United States Attorney Sherrie S. Capotosto is handling this case.

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